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For Immediate Release

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**The Coterie Opens 2017/2018  
Season with True Story of  
Defining Civil Rights Moment**

***We Shall Not Be Moved:  
The Student Sit-ins of 1960***

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### **OVERVIEW:**

**WHAT:** *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*

Written by Ed Simpson

Directed by Jeff Church

**WHEN:** September 19 – October 22, 2017

**Press / Opening Night:** Friday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Coterie, Level one of Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO

**PRICE:** \$11.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;  
\$15.00 for adults; \$5.00 - \$6.50 for Groups of 20 or more

**INFO / RESERVATIONS:** The Coterie Box Office

Phone: (816) 474-6552 Online: [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org)

**Kansas City, MO** – The Coterie Theatre opens its 39<sup>th</sup> season of live theatre for families and young audiences with *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*, an interactive drama for families with ages eleven and older that tells the true story of the student-led sit-in at segregated lunch counters that inspired a movement of non-violent protests. Written by Ed

Simpson and directed by Jeff Church, ***We Shall Not Be Moved*** will be performed live on The Coterie's stage, September 19 – October 22, 2017.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

In the spring of 1960, by simply taking a seat at a whites-only lunch counter at a Woolworth department store in Greensboro, four freshmen from A&T College in North Carolina launched a youth-led movement for African Americans to receive equal service by challenging racial injustice. Inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr., their non-violent demonstration eventually gained momentum nationally and soon inspired an entire generation to stand up for their Civil Rights by sitting down. ***We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*** is the story of several ordinary citizens who stand witness to a movement forming right before their eyes.

Playwright Ed Simpson was commissioned to write ***We Shall Not Be Moved*** to commemorate the 2008 bicentennial of the city of Greensboro, N.C. As he began researching and looking at documentary photographs, he knew he needed to tell the story of the town's most iconic moment from multiple perspectives. He needed to include not only the stories of those at the center of the protests but those in the community who were watching history as it happened. In a recent interview with *The Independent*, Simpson explained of the bystanders pictured in the photographs, "They're saying, 'What do I make of this?' Or, 'This is wrong!' Or whatever they're thinking. All of them had to make a choice... [and] I starting thinking, I wonder what that guy thinks about this? The guy on the edge of the picture. ... He had to make a decision, too. And so I wrote him into the play."

In a fascinating docu-drama style that incorporates audience participation into the performance, ***We Shall Not Be Moved*** continues the The Coterie's tradition of staging plays that bring to life prominent moments from the Civil Rights movement, through inventive and interactive productions. Like the previously-staged true stories of Rosa Parks, escaped slave Anthony Burns, and the Little Rock Nine, The Coterie's production of ***We Shall Not Be Moved*** will similarly encourage the audience – youth and adults alike – to watch the events of the play unfold and then discuss the issues in the play in context of the story with the actors while in character, asking them questions and offering opinions on the events depicted. Written for middle and high school students, ***We Shall Not Be Moved*** is an inventive and thought-provoking introduction to an important historical event that lets audiences talk to and get to know the characters and their stories along the way. In conjunction with the production, The Coterie will also again offer in-school workshops lead by professional teaching artists who help students put the play into both historical and contemporary context.

The Coterie's production of ***We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*** will run approximately 75 minutes with no intermission and will be best appreciated by adults, teens, and young

people aged eleven and older. The production is funded in part by Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, Theater League, and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund. The production is sponsored by the R.A. Long Foundation.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

The cast of ***We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*** features an ensemble of twelve actors, including Darrington Clark, Matthew J. Williamson, Deanna Mazdra, Alisa Lynn, Antonia Washington, Evan J. Lovelace, Khrystal L. Coppage, Robert E. Coppage III, Daniel Eugene Parman, Granvile T. O'Neal, Roan Ricker, and Tommy Waller. The artistic and production company includes Jeff Church (director), William J. Christie (production stage manager), Rafeal Toribio (set designer), Jarrett Bertoncin (lighting designer), Georgianna Londré Buchanan (costume designer), David Kiehl (sound designer), Scott Hobart (technical director), and Danielle Walsh (production assistant).

## **SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS**

The Coterie, named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, opens its 39th season with ***We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960***, September 19 – October 22, 2017, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of the Crown Center shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, September 22, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

**Individual Tickets:** Tickets are \$11.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors age 60 and older; and \$15.00 for adults.

**Group Pricing:** The Coterie offers groups of 20 or more a special preview rate of \$5.00 per person the first week of the run, September 19-24, 2017. After preview week, groups pay only \$5.50-\$6.00 per person on weekdays and \$6.50 per person on weekends (Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays).

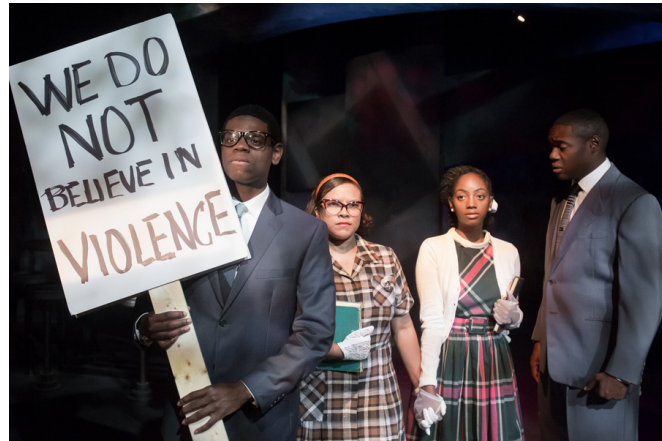
**Subscriptions:** In lieu of season subscriptions, The Coterie offers the Spotlight Pass, which works like a season ticket without committing to a set schedule. Spotlight Pass holders pay \$100.00 for a flexible pass that includes 10 tickets - a savings of 40% off individual ticket prices - that can be used for any show or combination of shows in the 2017/2018 Season.

All tickets and Spotlight Passes are on sale now and may be purchased by calling The Coterie's box office at (816) 474-6552, dropping by the box office on level one of the Crown Center Shops, or by visiting [www.thecoterie.org](http://www.thecoterie.org).

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE & NOTABLE EXTRAS

### WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED




SEPTEMBER 19 - OCTOBER 22, 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		19 9:45 am	20 9:45 am	21 9:45 am 11:45 am	22 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	23 2 pm
24 2 pm	25	26 9:45 am 11:45 am	27 9:45 am 11:45 am	28 9:45 am 11:45 am	29 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	30 2 pm
1 2 pm	2	3 9:45 am 11:45 am	4 9:45 am 11:45 am	5 9:45 am 11:45 am	6 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	7 2 pm
8 2 pm	9	10 9:45 am 11:45 am	11 9:45 am 11:45 am	12 9:45 am 11:45 am	13 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	14 2 pm
15 2 pm	16	17 9:45 am 11:45 am	18 9:45 am 11:45 am	19 9:45 am 11:45 am	20 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm	21 2 pm
22 2 pm						



Left to right: Darrington Clark (as The Young Man), Antonia Washington (Yvonne), Khrystal L. Coppage (Deirdre) and Robert E. Coppage III (Eugene) in *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*. Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

After each performance of *We Shall Not Be Moved*, audiences will remain in 1960 with the characters, to delve into the complexity of viewpoints offered.

#### CALENDAR LEGEND

-  Opening Night
-  Post-performance **Question and Answer session** with the company
-  **Interpreted performance** in American Sign Language

Production photos are available online at:

[www.thecoterie.org/press-room](http://www.thecoterie.org/press-room)

## THE REMAINING 2017/2018 SEASON

Following *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Student Sit-Ins of 1960*, The Coterie's 2017/2018 Season continues with the return of the holiday classic, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, November 7 – December 31, 2017; the world premiere of author Terry Brooks' *Imaginary Friends: Legend of Sinnissippi Park*, January 23 – February 11, 2018; the classic tale about never growing older, *Tuck Everlasting*, February 27 – March 31, 2018; a bi-lingual, interactive take on the classic fairy tale, *Jack and the Bean Magico!*, April 17 – May 20, 2018; and the summer musical for all ages, *Goosebumps: The Phantom of the Auditorium – The Musical*, June 19 – August 5, 2018.

Due to the nature of live theatre, play selection, performance schedule and casting are subject to change.

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